

Edmond Carl de Celle was born in the heart of New York's theatrical district on September 26, 1889, the only son of Alexandra Dagmar, Danish-English singer-actress and Edmond Louis de Celle, singer-business manager.

Traveling with his parents de Celle made his first trip to England at the age of five. Subsequent trips to Paris, back to America, to Johannesburg, South Africa, and to England followed. In all, thirteen trips across the Atlantic, including the last in 1914. It was on the return trip from Johannesburg that he was recommended to the Abingdon Convent, Oxfordshire for two years. Then followed a trip to America for about six months and a return to London where he attended the City of London School. Young de Celle had been drawing all this time but his first studies were under Frank Dicksee, R.A. From here he went to Bruges, Belgium where he studied for two years under Edward Desloovere. On his return to London he studied at the Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts doing poster work with Reginald Savage and Neils Lund, A.R.A. He next studied under Professor A.S. Hartrick, A.R.W.S. for four years (portraits and murals). During this period he exhibited in the Royal Academy and the New English Academy winning good notices and several prizes.

Mr. de Celle maintained a Studio in London from 1911-1914 doing posters, Murals and portraits. He did mural decorations of the Rosary for the Church of the Sacred Heart, London, and an historical panel for the library at Camberwell School. In 1912 he took a post-graduate course in Antiquities at Oxford University. He did his first stage decorations and scenic painting under Frank Hensley, London.

Coming to the United States in 1914, first to Chicago, then to Mobile to look after orange groves his family had purchased, Mr. de Celle was engaged by a local shipyard during World War 1 as a Camouflage Artist. His first Studio in Mobile was located in the then called "Staples-Powell" building and was called the "Arlington Studio". From there he moved to a Studio over the Bijou Theatre, on Dauphin Street, and did his first scenery for that theatre.

At the close of World War 1 in 1918, Mr. de Celle was approached and subsequently engaged by the Order of Myths Society to design their first post-war parade. The chosen subject was "Omar Khayman". Due to rain this parade was not seen until Mardi Gras 1920. Followed in 1921, "Prince of Egypt", Wizard of Oz", Prince Mishka" (written by de Celle), and all other parades through 1968. Mr. de Celle having designed and produced the 100th Anniversary parade for this society in 1967.

Mr. de Celle was a founder and Charter Member of the first Little Theatre of Mobile, organized in 1922, designing stage settings and directing many plays until the early thirties.

When the Mobile Opera Guild was organized in 1924 Mr. de Celle designed sets for productions. He was a founder and of the Joe Jefferson Players and designed sets and directed several plays until a professional director was engaged.

Having been, as he would put it, "around the stage since the age of five through family connections", it was only natural that Edmond de Celle became involved professionally in theatrical activities. However, painting was always uppermost in his life and he maintained his Studio until his death at 82, on January 27, 1972.

Edmond de Celle exhibited twice in the Royal Academy, London, the ~~British~~ British Salons, Municipal Galleries, Liverpool, Brighton, and Bradford, and at the New English Art Club, by invitation; the Ecclectic Club, New York; Salons of America; Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D.C.; Salon de Paris; Royal Academy and Teynby Hall, London.

In addition to one-man shows in Mobile, Edmond de Celle exhibited at the High Museum, Atlanta; Grand Central Galleries, New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery;

Birmingham Art Gallery; Delgado Museum, New Orleans; Mobile Art Gallery; Collections which include his works or sites where his paintings have been hung include the Municipal Art Gallery of Brighton, England; the Montgomery Museum and Huntington College, Montgomery; the Interior Department, Washington, D.C.; the Mobile Art Gallery and many ~~xxx~~ private collections.

Murals and decorations, some now destroyed, include the Church of the Sacred Heart, and Camberwell ~~Public~~ Public Library, London; Mobile homes,, Churches, Clubs, Hotels, and the Murphy High School Library.

Mr. de Celle was instrumental in forming the Allied Art Guild in 19____ and in ^{the} re-~~organizing~~ organization of the Alabama Art League, which he served as president in 1950. He was past president of the Mobile Art Association; member of the Gulf Coast Art Association; Mobile Water Color Association; the New Orleans Art Association; Art Center, New York; Independent Artists of America; and Salons of America. He was listed in Whos Who of Artists in America.

As a teacher, Edmond de Celle influenced the lives of many future artists, contributing to their education through his personal interest in their careers. Having ~~xxx~~ taught privately through the years, he was invited to teach several semesters at Springhill College during the 1960's. A teacher may not realize when he has lighted a candle for a student but there are a number of artists who recall the ability of their teacher and friend, Edmond de Celle.

omit { In addition to producing the O.O.M. parades, Mr. de Celle designed and produced stage settings for many mystic organizations including ; The Strikers, Sirens, Follies, Spinsters, S.C.S., Dragons, Thslians, Neredies, and others; settings for Kiwanis productions of the 1920's which were presented at the Bijou Theatre.